



Edward "Rick" Florancic

April 7, 1947 - September 9, 2025

Edward “Rick” Florancic was born in Chicago to Edward and Helen, Rick grew up watching his father—himself a WWII veteran, wounded in combat—move through life with a limp and a quiet strength. Like so many from that generation, his father rarely spoke of the war. Years later, Rick followed a similar path of service, joining the Air Force and serving during the Vietnam War—a job that came with its own risks and some truly harrowing memories.

But Rick’s story is so much more than his service. At one point, he had a real shot at the big leagues, practicing with the Chicago Cubs on their practice squad. He also considered becoming a priest and spent several years as a working musician in a Beatles-style band called The Shandells. They played all over Chicago, even winning the Battle of the Bands against groups like The Pulsations and The Buckingham.

Rick also made his mark in the business world. He held leadership roles at companies like Xerox, where he streamlined operations, recruited top talent, and saved the company over \$55 million through smarter processes and better customer service. He also served as Regional Manager for Kodak in Phoenix, covering seven states, always finding ways to deliver better service. He even brought his skills to Albertsons Food Corp, showing he could improve just about anything he touched.

But if you ask Rick, his greatest adventure—and his greatest source of pride—was marrying Healy. Together, they blended their families, bringing seven children under one roof: five little ones all under seven, and two older kids. Suddenly, the house was full of laughter, chaos, and constant motion. Instead of overwhelming them, it made them stronger. Rick and Healy built a home where everyone belonged, and their partnership became the steady center of a big, busy family.

Healy's warmth and wisdom were a perfect match for Rick's drive and creativity. She shared his love for music and always encouraged the kids to pursue their passions. Through all the moves, job changes, and life's ups and downs, Rick and Healy's bond only deepened—a true partnership, tested and proven by time.

When illness eventually caught up with Rick, he entered hospice care. Healy remained by his side, her steady presence a comfort and a reminder of all they'd built together. That's when Chaplain Rustad arrived. And instead of seeing only a "hospice patient," he saw the man who'd dreamed of playing baseball, once played in a band, dreamed of priesthood, helped companies thrive, and built a loving, blended family with Healy.

On that first visit, Chaplain Rustad noticed Rick's guitar in the corner. Turns out, music is something they share—Roger also plays the guitar. Rick also plays the harmonica and sings. He picked up Rick's guitar and played a few tunes, filling the room with melody and memories. For a while, it felt less like a hospice visit and more like two musicians sharing stories through music—a moment that brought comfort not just to Rick, but to Healy as well.

That love of music runs deep in Rick's family. His 20-year-old grandson, Landon, is one of Chicago's top Elvis impersonators—he credits his grandpa for his talent. Landon is a natural on guitar, drums, trumpet, and piano, and of

course, he sings. On his recent visit, Landon visited Rick's senior living community to perform, lighting up the faces of residents with classic songs and a little rock-and-roll swagger, a tradition that brings the family together and keeps Healy's heart full.

For veterans like Rick, Chaplain Rustad also helps arrange military honors: flags, headstones, rifle salutes, and Taps. He creates replica and custom dog tags for those who want to leave a lasting legacy for their children. If families need help with funeral arrangements, he shields them from the sales pitch and confusion. He's there for the tough conversations, but also for the little moments of joy—sometimes using virtual reality to let patients revisit a memory or see a place they've always dreamed of.

It's easy to forget, in the rush of care routines and medical charts, that everyone in hospice was once young, ambitious, and vibrant. They still have wisdom to share, stories to tell, and sometimes, music left to play. If you have a loved one in hospice or a care facility, take a page from Chaplain Rustad's book: ask about their story. Listen. You might learn something that shifts your whole perspective.

Because every patient is more than their illness. They're a library, a song, a legacy—and they deserve to be seen that way, right up to the very end. Rick is survived by his wife of 35 years Healy, his 4 children and 3 step kids, 10 grandkids and a great-grandson.

Celebration of Life Services will be at the

CareFree Church
5025 E. Carefree Highway

Cave Creek, AZ 85331

October 11, 2025 @ 3PM.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Services

OCT 11. 3:00 PM (MT)

CareFree Church
5025 E. Carefree Highway
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
info@carefreechurch.com
<http://www.CarefreeChurch.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward "Rick" Florancic*



Reflecting on Memories - September 13, 2025 at 11:02 AM

DF

Truly a rich life in family and love. I'll miss you, Rick. Love, Debby

Debby Fedderly - September 27, 2025 at 01:50 PM

LC

I will miss our 🇺🇸 and your great barbecue salmon. Link

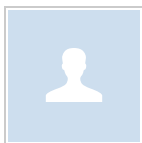
Lincoln Chayes - October 10, 2025 at 07:17 PM

LL

“ *Love always, Eric, Deanna & Landon purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward "Rick" Florancic.*



Love always, Eric, Deanna & Landon - October 10, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward "Rick" Florancic.*

October 05, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward "Rick" Florancic.*



October 05, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ *The Janisch Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Edward "Rick" Florancic.*



The Janisch Family - October 02, 2025 at 01:15 PM



“ *Rick and I became friends and brothers in Christ when we attended Carefree Church in Cave Creek, AZ. I know beyond the shadow of doubt what a wonderful guy he was. We played guitar together occasionally and it was some of the best musical moments I ever enjoyed. H8s love for Healy was truly an exemplary of a man of faith. I'm so glad I knew him and while I'm sad to hear of this loss, I know he's resting in the arms of Jesus. R.I.P. ok pal...*

Roger Williams - September 23, 2025 at 03:26 PM



Couple of typos...sorry

Roger Williams - September 23, 2025 at 03:31 PM

MF

“ I had the privilege of working with Ed for a few months at KARL STORZ, and from the moment we met during his interview, we instantly connected. I walked away from that meeting genuinely excited, thinking, “I can’t wait to work with this gentleman.” And he truly was—a gentleman in every sense of the word, full of integrity, warmth, and life.

Though his time with us was brief, Ed made a lasting impact. He brought tremendous value to our team and left behind a legacy of kindness and professionalism. Ed was a beautiful soul, and his presence will be deeply missed.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and loved ones. May Ed rest in peace.

Marian Favors - September 23, 2025 at 02:05 PM

RC

“ My husband Ray and I (Cindy) first met Rick at Carefree church on a Saturday at our prayer group . He was such a good and caring man and he will be missed 💕💕

Ray and Cindy Catona - September 23, 2025 at 02:03 PM

CJ

“ Rest in Eternal Peace

Chuck Janisch - September 23, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ 12 files added to the album *Our Favorite Memories Album*



Reflecting on Memories - September 21, 2025 at 11:33 PM



“ 35 files added to the album *Our Favorite Memories Album*



Reflecting on Memories - September 21, 2025 at 01:49 AM



“ 82 files added to the album Memories Album



Reflecting on Memories - September 20, 2025 at 12:03 AM

CR

“ To Healy and the entire Florancic Family,

I know that this is a very difficult time for each of you, but you have to remember that there are just as many days as there are nights. I know that you have a lot of good memories and I hope that your lifetime of loving memories will fill your days and nights with solace and comfort. Death may end a life, but NOT a relationship.

I know that Rick had a deep love for each of you, and please know that the entire Green Meadows Hospice team is saddened by the loss of Rick, and we considered it our privilege to have been able to be there and care for him in his last days, to ease his pain and make his final days the best that they could be. It was my privilege to be at the bedside and have prayer with Rick and Healy a few hours before he died.

Our Green Meadows Bereavement Team is there for you to help you on your Grief Journey and we have many resources that we can share. I put together this web page and will be making a special tribute movie to start each of you on your way to healing so you can recall those special memories that you shared together.

Know that our Bereavement staff is ready with resources and we are willing to listen when you need a caring voice to talk to.

Time heals....Love restores,

Chaplain Roger Rustad

Chaplain Roger Rustad - September 10, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ 3 files added to the album *Family Memories Album*



Reflecting on Memories - September 10, 2025 at 11:39 AM